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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Farmers impacted by recent disasters encouraged to apply for benefits before deadlines**

*Families may be eligible for unemployment, food stamps and other benefits*

INDIANAPOLIS (June 25, 2008) – Farmers impacted by the severe flooding events and tornados since May 30 may be eligible for special federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), food stamps and assistance from FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

“We’re concerned that because farmers are usually self-employed, they may not know they are eligible for benefits,” said Teresa Voors, Department of Workforce Development (DWD) commissioner. “Self-employed farmers that have not paid into the state’s unemployment fund may still be eligible for federal disaster unemployment assistance.”

“There are key deadlines approaching and it’s important to submit applications as quickly as possible,” Voors added.

Farmers may qualify for federal DUA and need to apply by July 19, 2008. To be eligible for assistance, workers or self-employed individuals must be unemployed as a result of a major disaster in a federally declared area. Assistance is available if, as a direct result of the disaster, the person:

- No longer has a job.
- Cannot work because of a disaster-related injury.
- Is unable to reach his or her place of work.
- Was to commence work and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job.
- Has become the primary means of support for the household because the head of household died as a direct result of the disaster.

Applications for federal DUA are accepted online at [www.in.gov/dwd](http://www.in.gov/dwd) and at one of the state’s disaster assistance centers, which are open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Counties in the federally declared disaster area include: Adams, Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, Gibson, Grant, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Henry, Huntington, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Parke, Pike, Posey, Putnam, Randolph, Ripley, Rush, Shelby, Sullivan, Vermillion, Vigo, Washington and Wayne.

Emergency food stamps remain available to residents of Decatur, Hamilton, Gibson, Parke, Putnam, Posey, Randolph and Wayne counties until June 26, 2008. Residents in Grant, Huntington, Jefferson, Lawrence, Pike, Ripley and Washington have until June 30, 2008, to apply. The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) received additional approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to issue these emergency food stamps. The program may apply county residents who were affected by the disaster, including people not currently receiving state assistance.

"We appreciate the swift federal response to the disasters that have affected so many Hoosiers in the past weeks," said FSSA Secretary Mitch Roob. "These emergency food stamps can help farmers get through this difficult time of trying to recover from all that was lost."

When applying, applicants should bring a state driver's license or other form of identification, such as work or school ID, birth certificate, wage stub and a document that verifies their home address. Applicants may be asked for their social security number and must reside or work in the affected area. For further details on eligibility or to submit an application, contact the nearest county Office of Family Resources. The offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Applications also are available at the state disaster assistance centers.

Additional information about agricultural assistance and the response to these natural disasters is available on the state's Web site [www.emergency.in.gov/agriculture](http://www.emergency.in.gov/agriculture).

Applications for FEMA assistance and loans through the small business administration are available at the state disaster centers, online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or via phone at 800-621-3362.

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